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COUNTRY Yugoslavia REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Initial Organization of Parachute Units in Yugoslavia

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT July 1950 to 1 November 1950

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REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. In July 1950, a new parachute regiment designated Padobransko Transportni Puk was initially organized in Belgrade. The unit was composed of 12 companies of about 80 men each, ranging from 18 to 22 years of age, who had been given premilitary training at the parachute training center in Koprivnika, Croatia. The regiment is said to be equipped with 18 aircraft, including German J-52s. Colonel Duzan Crmic was commander of the regiment. (1)
2. Three new parachute regiments were initially organized in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Sarajevo on 1 November 1950. (2)
3. The EM of the regiments were recruited suddenly from the SKOJ (Savez Komunisticki Omladine Yugoslaviye) units, which are units which give premilitary parachute and glider training. Other recruits arrived from the pilot schools in Belgrade and Zagreb. From these units and schools were selected all those students who were physically fit and who would be 16 by 1 November 1950. Due to their premilitary training they will be available as parachutists in a short time. (3)
4. The members of the parachute units wore air force uniforms and a silver eagle on their epaulets and the right-hand side of their jackets. A parachute badge, a red Soviet star with an open blue parachute, was worn below the eagle on the breast. (4)

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Comments.

- (1) This is the first report on regular Yugoslav parachute units. The statement made by source would indicate that a new parachute regiment with aircraft of its own is concerned. However, the number of 18 aircraft is too small for simultaneous employment of the entire regiment. It is therefore assumed that two separate units, a parachute regiment and an airborne regiment are concerned. This point has not yet been clarified.
- (2) The information on the initial organization of these parachute regiments has not been confirmed.
- (3) The speedy organization of parachute units from such premilitary formations appears probable. Yugoslav newspaper reports indicate that such units are given intensive and comprehensive training.
- (4) The details on parachute badges worn by Yugoslav parachute units are reported for the first time.

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